

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 EA-06 EUR-08 NEA-07 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01 SP-02 PRS-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 /057 W

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P R 291020Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1385

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3817

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, XO, SA

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 123690

1. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THE SAG HAS NEVER TAKEN A
PUBLIC POSITION, AUTHORITATIVE OR OTHERWISE, ON OUR DIEGO GARCIA
PROPOSAL.

2. THE AMBASSADOR HAS DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT IN GENERAL TERMS WITH
MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN, THE LAST TIME BEING PERHAPS
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SIX MONTHS AGO. THE SAUDI RESPONSE WAS GENERALLY

FAVORABLE, BASED UPON THE PREMISE THAT IF THERE IS A SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE AREA THERE SHOULD BE A BALANCING US PRESENCE. THE SAUDIS HAVE SHOWN NO PARTICULAR IN DIEGO GARCIA AND WE HAVE NOT SOUGHT TO ENCOURAGE ANY.

3. THE SAUDI ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PRESENCE OF US MILITARY FORCES IN PROXIMITY TO THE KINGDOM HAS PROBABLY CHANGED SOMEWHAT SINCE WHAT THEY TERM "INVASION THREATS" BEGAN EARLY THIS YEAR. WHILE PERHAPS NOT NOW NEGATIVE, THE SAUDI ATTITUDE IS CERTAINLY AMBIVALENT; THE US CAN PROVIDE THE ONLY EFFECTIVE COUNTERWEIGHT TO POTENTIALLY THREATENING SOVIET FORCES IN THE AREA, BUT CAN THE US BE TRUSTED NOT TO USE ITS FORCES AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA?

4. WE DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE WISE TO CHARACTERIZE THE SAUDI POSITION IN OPEN TESTIMONY DURING THE HEARINGS AS ONE OF SUPPORT, FIRST BECAUSE WE NEVER ASKED THE SAG THE QUESTION "DO YOU OR DO YOU NOT SUPPORT US PROPOSALS FOR DIEGO GARCIA?" AND SECONDLY BECAUSE SUCH MENTION MIGHT PROMPT SAUDI ARABIA'S NONALIGNED" FRIENDS TO PRESSURE THE SAG TO PUBLICLY REPUDIATE OUR ALLEGATION OF SUPPORT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JIDDA03817
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750187-0943
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750510/aaaaaimr.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 123690
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIEGO GARCIA
TAGS: MARR, XO, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006